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ON PAGE C 27

THE WASHINGTON POST  
30 September 1981

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### State Dept. Set To Look Into Taiwan's Spying

The mysterious death of Prof. Chen Wen-cheng of Carnegie-Mellon University on a visit to his native Taiwan has finally moved the State Department to examine the problem of spying by Taiwanese agents in the United States.

Chen was found dead shortly after he had been questioned for 13 hours by Taiwanese authorities. Their official explanation of his death as either accident or suicide is viewed with extreme skepticism by the State Department; the mystery may never be solved satisfactorily.

What particularly disturbs the department—beyond the personal tragedy of Chen's death—is that his lengthy interrogation by Taiwanese authorities betrays their detailed knowledge of the professor's activities in the United States.

Taiwanese spying on their critics here has been no secret. I reported two years ago on a top-secret Senate Foreign Relations Committee document that described the Taiwanese surveillance operations.

A recent, highly sensitive State Department memorandum on the subject has been reviewed by my associate Lucette Lagnado. It suggests that the department is finally

thinking of doing something about it.

The department "is initiating meetings with the FBI and the Department of Justice to review information on Taiwan-KMT [Kuomintang] activities in the United States," the memo states.

The FBI will try to develop evidence of illegal surveillance by the Taiwanese, including those with the pseudo-diplomatic status accorded members of the Taiwanese government's Coordination Council for North American Affairs. This has been Taiwan's equivalent of an embassy since formal diplomatic relations were curtailed a few years ago.

"If the FBI is able to develop good evidence of direction of surveillance activities by persons who have CCNAA cover, we could PNG them," the memo says. PNG is the abbreviation for declaring a foreigner "persona non grata," or unwelcome in the United States. The individual is then expelled.

As for those Taiwanese agents who are not protected by the CCNAA's functional immunity, the State Department memo suggests that "they might be prosecuted under the Foreign Agents Registration Act, which seems to be the most serious thing the Justice Department can come up with."

At best, the memo adds, these mild actions "would only touch the tip of what most KMT watchers think is an iceberg."

A far more effective way to deal with the situation, the memo suggests, would be to cut back on the number of Taiwanese government personnel allowed into this country. "If we wanted to really make a dent in this activity, I think we would have to start restricting, perhaps selectively, the number of CCNAA personnel," the memo explains.

That suggestion has been made by Rep. James A. S. Leach (R-Iowa). He and Rep. Stephen J. Solarz (D-N.Y.), chairman of the House Asian and Pacific affairs subcommittee, have been pressing State to act.

As a result of a secret meeting of the Solarz subcommittee and top officials of the FBI and Justice Department, "the FBI has alerted its offices around the country to report any allegations of spy activity, and [the Justice Department] has indicated they will prosecute whenever a case can be made," the memo notes.

Solarz has suggested that arms sales to Taiwan be made contingent on a certification by the president that the Taiwanese have ended their surveillance activities here.